

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

220 Jordan Hall

December 18, 1961

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University School of Medicine
300 Pasteur Drive
Palo Alto, Calif.

Dear Josh:

I am hesitant to encroach upon your time for I know how busy you are, but my colleagues and I need your counsel and wisdom in a matter of utmost importance to us. As you may know, Professor Cleland retires in 1963 and Professor Muller the following year. Obviously these retirements will cut deeply into our present strength in Cytology and Genetics here at Indiana University. They also present us with a tremendous challenge in our search for new faculty which will include, in addition, at least one major appointment in molecular biology.

Because the men selected for these three positions will strongly influence the future of biology at this institution, we seek your advice both as to fields to be represented and as to potential candidates. At present we are inclined to try to build a balanced program in which classical areas and modern molecular biology are both adequately represented. You probably know, at least in a general way, the present composition of our biological departments (Bacteriology, Botany and Zoology, which are now closely integrated) and the research interests of our staff. What areas of research do you think should be represented by the three or more appointments to be made within the next few years? (For purely administrative purposes, the Cleland replacement will be in the Botany Department, the Muller replacement in the Zoology Department, and the molecular biologist wherever he best fits.) We would particularly appreciate having you name especially promising young men who give promise of leadership in developing fields which might come to the fore in the next decade or so. The level of the appointments is flexible and would be adjusted to the status of the candidates. *

up to about
the mid-40's

You may think we are asking the impossible of you. Perhaps we are. Nevertheless, whatever comments or suggestions you offer will be greatly appreciated by all of us. I would be grateful if you would pass this letter around to some of your colleagues, especially to Melvin Cohn, Kornberg, Perkins and Yanofsky. We would much appreciate having the separate and combined wisdom of the Stanford galaxy of stars. Perhaps to save some effort, one of you would be willing to respond for all.

With much thanks and best regards to you and Esther and to your colleagues,

* Do you want to try for the

Levin - Cohn - Benzer team?

TMS:mz

Cordially,

Tracy
T. M. Sonneborn